indicate increase in tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh, figures from April to December 2002 are not yet available.

(c) Himachal Pradesh is being promoted in overseas markets through India Tourism Offices abroad.

Renovation and development of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh

79. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state!

(a) the names of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of these spots which are based on religious background and also on other aspects;

(c) whether any new projects on tourism are under consideration of Government;

(d) if so, the details of the decision regarding new projects and the sanction of funds; if any; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal for renovation and development of existing tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Himachal Pradesh has a large number of tourist spots with natural beauty and religious significance. Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Dalhousie and Dharamshala are among the more popular tourist places in the State.

(c) to (e) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for integrated development of tourism circuits and product/infrastructure and destination development projects identified in consultation with them. A project for integrated development of Chandigarh-Kullu-Manali-Lahaul/Spiti Leh circuit with central financial component of Rs. 6.53 crores for works in Himachal Pradesh has been sanctioned during the current financial year.